Iron County MINER

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HURLEY, WISCONSIN 54534 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Breaking a World Record!

At right, WDNR Warden John Windt was on hand (with young John Kaelke) to officially record the world-record-tying mileage on Nick Keller's sled in Ironwood on Wednesday morning. The odometer read 12,788 miles, including the 625 miles Keller put on breaking in the sled, prior to the start of his world-record breaking journey.

Nick Keller, from Richmond, Minn., has been on a journey to break a World Record: the Guinness Book of World Records "longest snowmobile journey" within a 60 day period, to be exact. He has been on this particular journey since Dec. 26, 2009 and will continue adding miles until the final day, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010. The ride has taken him through the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

The current record of 12,163 fell Wednesday morning near Hiawatha in Ironwood, as Nick and his great-nephew, John Kaelke, rode the final mile, tying the record at about 9:15 a.m. before a large crowd of official witnesses and record-takers. The event was well-documented with video and digital cameras recording every detail and witnesses signing official forms - an important requirement of the Guinness World Record-Breaking process. Representatives from both the Hurley and Ironwood Chambers were on hand to officially witness the event, as well as many area residents, and Keller's family and friends. He continued on his ride, surpassing the record at 9:35 a.m.

Keller's mission is two-fold, to set a new world-record and to raise funds for cancer awareness, in honor of his mother, who died of breast cancer in March of 1989, through a project called "Snowmobile Cancer Challenge." According to his website www.SnowballCancer.org, which lists his daily mileage logs and official mission, "Nick has been an avid snowmobiler for 37 years, and a distance snowmobiler averaging 200 plus miles a day and over 5,000 miles a season. He is known throughout the areas as 'the mileage man'."